



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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For Immediate Release
November 7, 2007

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Add Local Flavor to Thanksgiving with Massachusetts-Grown Turkeys

BOSTON – With Thanksgiving just two weeks away, the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR) urges consumers to purchase a locally-grown turkey this year – a win-win choice that supports Bay State agriculture, and results in a fresher, tastier meal.

Home to a dozen turkey farms, Massachusetts is responsible for more than half of all domestic turkeys produced in New England. Massachusetts farmers annually produce nearly 60,000 turkeys, valued at over \$2.2 million, according to the DAR. Buying directly from a Massachusetts turkey grower guarantees freshness and contributes to local economies. Many growers offer turkey roasted to order, complete with gravy and stuffing.

Turkeys have been part of the holiday table since the Pilgrims celebrated the first Thanksgiving in Plymouth during the autumn of 1621. While “fresh dressed” Massachusetts-grown turkeys are available during other seasons, they are most popular at this time of year. To ensure enough turkeys to satisfy holiday demand, turkey farmers begin incubating eggs in May. Baby turkeys (poults) hatch about four weeks later and spend the next four to five months growing to market weight. Massachusetts-grown turkeys typically don’t need to be basted while they cook, since local growers allow a natural layer of fat to develop under the skin before birds are harvested.

The DAR points out that fresh turkey can be stored in the refrigerator for one to two days before cooking. The best way to thaw a frozen turkey is in the refrigerator, allowing one day of thawing for each five pounds. See the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service’s web site for complete safety information regarding storing and cooking turkeys: www.fsis.usda.gov/fact_sheets/turkey_from_farm_to_table/index.asp.

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Massachusetts Turkey Farms (W=wholesale; R=retail)

Bristol County		
Rainbow Turkey Farm 199 Homestead Avenue <u>Rehoboth</u>	508-252-4427	Open November and December. Fresh dressed turkey. R
Essex County		
Raymond's Turkey Farm 163 Hampstead Street <u>Methuen</u> www.raymondsturkeyfarm.net	978-686-4075	Open year round 7 days a week 8:00 am - 5:00 pm. Fresh dressed or roasted turkey, stuffing, gravy, pies, soup, ground turkey, turkey lasagna, sausage, cutlets, chop suey, party trays, salad, white sliced turkey , turnips/squash. R.
Franklin County		
Diemand Farms 126 Mormon Hollow Road <u>Millers Falls</u>	978-544-3806	Open year round. Fresh dressed or roasted turkey, turkey pies. Maple syrup, fresh meat chickens. W/R
Hampden County		
Haley's Turkey Farm 1109 Park Street <u>Palmer</u>	413-283-8369	Open November and December. Fresh dressed turkey, sausage and smoked turkey kielbasa. W/R
Hampshire County		
Lukasik Game Farm Pearl Street <u>South Hadley</u>	413-534-5697	November & December 7 days a week. Fresh dressed wild & domestic turkey, pheasant, goose, partridge, duck. W/R
Middlesex County		
Fantasy Acres Farm 186 Main Street - P.O. Box 405 <u>West Groton</u>	978-448-2749	Open November and December. Fresh dressed turkey. R
<u>Natick Community Organic Farm</u> 117 Eliot Street, Rte. 16 <u>South Natick</u>	508-655-2204	Open November. Fresh dressed turkey by orders placed in advance. (organic) R
Out Post Farm 216 Prentice Street <u>Holliston</u>	508-429-5244	Open year round. Fresh dressed or roasted turkey, pies, Swedish meatballs, sandwiches, soups and salads. Open seven days a week. Wholesale 10 or more. R
Seven Acres Farm 4 Concord Street <u>N. Reading</u>	978-664-2660	Fresh dressed turkey. Fresh dressed turkey. R
Plymouth County		

Asack Turkey Farm 166 South Street <u>West Bridgewater</u>	508-586-2902	Open year round 7 days a week. Mon.-Fri. 9am - 5:30 pm; Sat. 9am - 5:00 pm; Sun. 11am - 5:00 pm. Fresh dressed or roasted turkey, turkey pies, stuffing, salads, and soup. R
<u>Bongi's Turkey Roost</u> 414 Kingstown Way. (Rte. 53) <u>Duxbury</u>	781-585-2392	Fresh dressed turkey, pies, sausage, chili, soup, salad. R
Worcester County		
<u>Bob's Turkey Farm</u> 181 Old Common Road <u>Lancaster</u>	978-365-9271	Fresh or frozen turkey, turkey roasted & stuffed, pies, sausage, patties, ground, cooked turkey meat, party trays. W/R

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